

I made this much of a final production
out of a relatively unimportant matter
because it seems to me that this might
serve as a useful precedent for any future
similar situations.

SANITIZED

NW-84-14

BY msm NARA DATE 3/88

16 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Review of Cuban Operations for the Standing Group of the NSC

Bromley Smith told me today that the "revived" Standing Group of the NSC would consider Cuba at its first meeting, next Tuesday at 5:00 (the "regular" time will be 10:30 Tuesdays). He said that Cottrell will be asked to prepare a paper to be ready by the close of business this Thursday, the 18th.* This will be a status report, not an action document. Mr. Smith said Mr. Bundy had asked that he discuss with me the handling of the Special Group input.

I pointed out to Smith that while the members of the Special Group are also members of the Standing Group (with the exception of Harriman who replaces Johnson for State), some of the other Standing Group members have never been exposed to Special Group affairs and the remainder have been only sporadically. We agreed on the desirability of not spreading knowledge of covert operations any wider than absolutely necessary, if we are to preserve the principle of deniability.

I suggested that Cottrell be instructed to put the report on covert operations in a separate annex, and urged that this not be distributed in advance of Tuesday's meeting, as the basic paper will be. Mr. Smith agreed that this could probably be handled by passing the annex out at the meeting and retrieving it at the end.



*Later - In view of the meeting with higher authority scheduled for Friday the 19th, it has been agreed that the covert annex would be more meaningful if prepared after that. Therefore, the deadline for this will be Monday afternoon.

Distribution

Mr. McCone

General Carter

Mr. Helms

Mr. Bromley Smith

SECRET